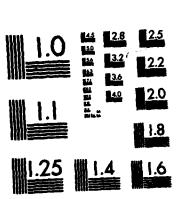
SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTING FOR REDUCING ENERGY COSTS OF DEFENSE FACILITIES(U) LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT INST MASHINGTON DC G M GREIDER ET AL JAN 83 LMI-ML287 MDR983-81-C-0166 F/G 5/1 AD-A125 273 1/1 UNCLASSIFIED NL END



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SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTING
FOR REDUCING ENERGY COSTS
OF DEFENSE FACILITIES

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January 1983

George M. Greider James M. Baker

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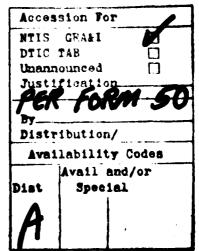


#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The annual energy bill for Department of Defense (DoD) facilities is \$3.2 billion. Each one percent reduction in energy useage would reduce the operations and maintenance budget by \$30 million. In recent years, the private sector has developed a new approach to energy management that, if adopted by the DoD, could reduce the annual energy costs of some facilities by 20 to 30 percent. That approach is called "shared savings contracting".

With a shared savings contract, payments to an energy services contractor are made from savings realized. If there are no savings, or savings are less than forecast, the contractor receives no payment. Energy savings occur immediately, and dollar savings usually occur at the same time or shortly thereafter. Capital improvements can be financed out of the savings.

The primary risks associated with shared savings contracting relate to its being new and different. The market for energy management services is not mature and there is little government experience with this form of contracting. We recommend, therefore, that the concept be tested in several pilot projects in the DoD. This will allow DoD to explore and evaluate the concept before committing to full scale implementation. We have prepared guidelines and work schedules for a pilot project test.





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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this report, we shall be discussing ways in which DoD can take advantage of private sector financing of equipment and service contracts to increase DoD energy efficiency. There are many forms of contracts and arrangements available which we will discuss generally as <a href="mailto:shared-savings">shared savings</a>. SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTS

A shared savings contract is one in which the contractor is paid only out of savings realized by the client. If there are no savings, the client is protected against losses, and the contractor or his insurance company must pay the client. If the savings are less than predicted or promised, the contractor who has made the investment is at risk, not the client. The contractor's payment is thus contingent on performance, so these arrangements are sometimes called performance contracts.

When applied to the acquisition of equipment, a shared savings contract stipulates that the annual cost of leasing or financing the equipment will be less than the savings realized by its use. The client is guaranteed not to have to spend more and possibly less than current energy bills. So, the financing organization takes the risk that savings may not be sufficient to pay off lenders and investors.

Typically, when equipment is involved in a shared savings contract, title passes to the client at the end of some stated period of time. To the extent that transferring ownership was the intent of the client and contractor at the beginning, this contract arrangement would properly be called a <u>conditional</u> sale. The sale or transfer of title becomes final only when the client fulfills the last condition -- that is, makes the final payment. A conditional

sale contract which bases payment on a share of savings realized would be called a contingent installment purchase. 1

Obviously, a shared savings contract implies savings. Energy use in capital stock, especially in buildings, is generally very inefficient, and energy prices have increased dramatically. Both new and well-tested methods exist to reduce energy use without affecting thermal comfort. Therefore, some part of our energy budget can be saved, and the dollars saved may be significant. In fact, these types of contracts have become very popular in the private sector because the potential dollar savings are so high.

Figure 1-1 shows a theoretical energy consumption pattern over time. In this example, present energy consumption is flat. The lower line indicates the technically feasible savings' potential over the last 10 years due to new equipment and skill development.

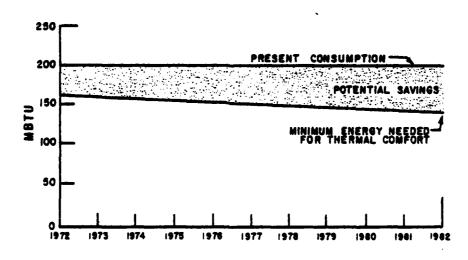


FIGURE 1-1. ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Figure 1-2 shows the increasing trend of energy prices in the same period and thus the increasing value of potential savings.<sup>2</sup> Multiplying consumption data and savings potential in MBtu's by the cost per MBtu yields energy cost, a combination of the two tables, shown in Figure 1-3.

FIGURE 1-2. ENERGY PRICE TREND

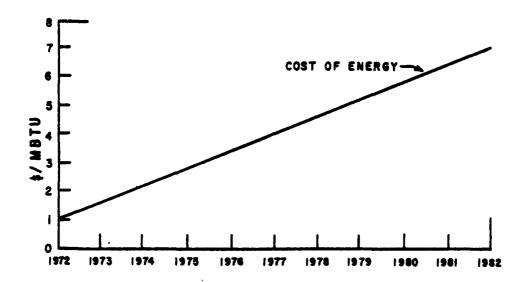
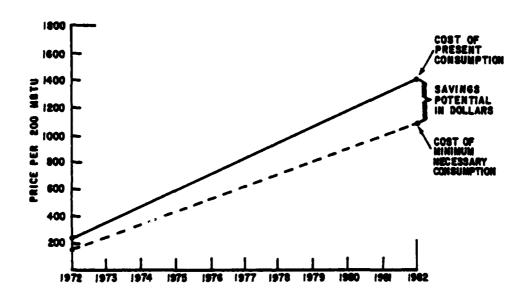


FIGURE 1-3. ENERGY SAVINGS POTENTIAL



These graphic presentations of hypothetical energy use show that the potential value of energy savings has increased greatly in the last 10 years. For most of the post World War II period, the United States has been protected by price regulation and subsidies. The major part of its building stock was designed and constructed with much lower energy costs in mind. Because U.S. prices for energy are now rising rapidly to reach parity with world prices, many businesses have become interested in capturing some of the potential savings. They are seeking to make money by saving energy.

The energy saved has a value due to its cost, but the dollar value of energy savings is an imputed or paper value since it is an <u>avoided cost</u>. Anyone considering an energy conservation project, especially one using a shared savings arrangement, needs to become familiar with the real value of avoided costs.

It is also important to be aware that avoiding costs does not guarantee net cost reduction. To the extent that prices rise faster than the value of energy conserved, net energy costs will rise. They will rise less steeply and to lower heights for those who conserve, but all will pay more.

The essence of the shared savings concept is that the cost of any equipment or maintenance service is less than the amount of savings realized; in other words, the cost is covered by some share of the savings. Exact arrangements will differ among contractors, but the major types are:

- Split savings
- Guaranteed energy reduction
- Fixed fee guarantee

#### Split Savings

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The contract calls for savings realized to be documented by some method and shared by the client and contractor under a particular formula. An even split would be 50/50; the contractor and the client would share every

energy dollar saved equally. Other contracts give the contractor more of the savings split, (70/30, 80/20, etc.) but for a shorter time. The most complex contracts involve a formula for payments that stipulates priorities among the lender, contractor, and client for shares of the savings until first the lender, then the contractor receives some target amount. (In all arrangements, at the end of the contract, all the savings accrue to the client.)

## Guaranteed Energy Reduction

A shared savings contract may guarantee to reduce a client's energy use or energy bills by a stated percentage every year. The contractor expects to be able to do a much better job of saving energy than the guaranteed percentages and intends to keep the difference. Unless the contractor is willing to assume the risk of energy price fluctuations, however, the client faces the real risk that energy consumption will be reduced but net energy expenditures will still increase.

#### Fixed Fee Guarantee

China and Assessment Treescale

This is a rare but most desirable contract from the client's perspective. The contractor quotes a fixed fee for all equipment services and guarantees that the fee will be less than the savings realized. The crucial factor distinguishing this type of contract is that the contractor assumes the risk of major energy price runups by guaranteeing cost reductions or positive cash flow or no net negative cash flow. If the contractor stipulates the value of his guarantee on the basis of costs to be avoided, but actually guarantees to reduce energy without regard to cost, it is not a guaranteed fee arrangement.

There are three factors (exclusive of facility usage) which influence energy bills: the energy efficiency of plant and operations; weather-induced energy v - and largy cost. All shared savings arrangements,

being performance contracts, place the responsibility for equipment performance on the contractor. The best deal for the client has the contractor assume all responsibility for efficient energy use within the normal range of building operations and the risk of weather extremes and increases in energy costs.

#### SAVINGS POTENTIAL

Currently available knowledge and equipment can reduce the conventional energy consumption of almost any sizable commercial or industrial building. The savings potential will vary with the type of building. Estimates vary greatly from one analyst to another. 2,3,4,5 The Solar Energy Reseranch Institute has estimated 25-30 percent of current commercial/industrial consumption could be cut with existing techniques, exclusive of cogeneration. Studies of the hospital sector indicate a savings potential between 20 and 40 percent. 7,8,9 One respected energy engineer says, "there isn't a plant in the U.S. whose energy bill we can't cut by 20 percent annually." His methods involve only no-cost or low-cost, "brains and screwdrivers" work; with equipment changes, even greater savings are possible.

It is difficult to estimate the energy conservation potential of defense facilities. Most consumption data have been developed around an accounting system based upon Btu/sq ft, which has been revised several times. The accounting system was developed in response to a mandated energy conservation program (Executive Order 12003). Serious debate has developed about actual energy consumption reduction. 11,12 Regardless of how much savings have been obtained, there is no information other than anecdotal to show how much more may be possible.

However, even if the potential savings are only 10 percent, with DoDs annual fuel bill of \$3.2 billion, the dollar savings are significant -- in

excesss of \$300 million. Every one percent of the fuel bill we save through improved energy management would release over \$30 million for other more important defense requirements.

Since savings are realized over time, it is usually necessary to consider the time value of money. 14 Money received in the future is thought to have a lesser value than the same amount received now. The money in hand is worth more because of the other things it can be spent on -- for example, other investment opportunities. The money in the future has to be devalued or discounted to account for what it could have been earning elsewhere. This discounted value is computed by reducing the value of future dollars by a discount rate (based on the return on other investments, the cost of capital borrowing to the organization, or some computed proxy such as the figure OMB sets for the federal government), factoring in the time of receipt -- year 1, year 2, etc.

An important benefit of shared savings contracting is that even though capital improvements may be involved, no capital expenditure is required of the client. The contractor guarantees that annual, including first year, costs will be less than savings realized. Financing costs, if any, are figured into the shared savings contract so that the amount to be saved will usually cover all costs and still leave some savings for the client.

A critical consideration for institutional and government energy users considering shared savings contracting is whether they will really receive any meaningful benefit from the savings. Presuming that the contractor is offering a non-trivial share of the savings, there must be some way in which savings really accrue to the benefit of the client. If the savings only benefits a general fund, produce a budget surplus, offset other losses, or result in decreased reimbursements or budgets, only the most general sort of

benefit is realized. These general benefits are most certainly a concern -especially when, for example, DoD energy bills constitute approximately
1.5 percent of the federal budget. However, the general benefit is
frequently only lightly felt by those who actually do the work.

## FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Monies for the purchase of utility services and fuel supplies are authorized and appropriated to DoD under the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget item.  $^{16}$ 

Money saved within one part of O&M -- utility bills, for example -- would then be available to pay for other O&M activities. A shared savings contract under which the contractor provided energy maintenance services would have the multiple benefits of providing extra maintenance manpower (the contractor's), freeing existing personnel to do other maintenance and providing extra dollars (the savings) for other maintenance and repair projects.

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#### 2. ASSESSMENT OF SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTING

In this chapter we describe the types of contract services that could improve energy efficiency under shared savings arrangements. We discuss the general advantages and disadvantages and note some strategic decisions and related procedural hurdles.

#### TYPES OF CONTRACTS

The types of services available on a shared savings basis fall in the following categories:

- Energy audits and technical assistance
- Energy operations and maintenance management
- Energy equipment financing
- Comprehensive energy services

In the following paragraphs, we describe these types and discuss the unique values and liabilities of each type as it relates to the DoD.

# Energy Audits and Technical Assistance

Several businesses with process or building engineering expertise have developed an energy audit or energy engineering service whereby savings are guaranteed to be greater than the fee charged. Some organizations request a long-term agreement which pays them a royalty on energy saved for a period of years. Others simply warrant that the savings realized, either by the implementation of the no-cost/low-cost elements of their audit or by their actual interventions, will exceed the fee charged in the first year. These we refer to as "energy doctor" services.

In other words, these experts will survey a client's buildings and either recommend or implement changes that are guaranteed to save more than

the cost of the changes and the amount of their bill. The audit recommendations are, of course, only as good as the client's ability to put them into practice. The "energy doctor" or technical assistance contract represents a higher level of service -- removing the risk of a failure to implement recommendations properly.

Energy engineering is a newly developing specialty. There is no single place to go to learn all there is and become an expert. It is more typically a function of a great deal of self education and hands-on experience, and there are relatively few people who are able to do a thorough and reliable audit of a building and guarantee that their program will save money.

Since actual savings rely on implementation, the most certain savings and the most meaningful guarantees are those given by the person willing to do the work rather than one just presenting the client with a list of recommendations.

#### Energy Operations and Maintenance Management

A few companies offer contracts for the operation and maintenance of client facilities with a guarantee to save more energy dollars than the contract itself costs. These organizations<sup>2</sup> take over all energy-related maintenance, often placing their own managers on site. Their services include corrective and preventive maintenance, minor construction and alteration. This is an exclusive business for some; others do energy management as a part of a total maintenance contract. Those exclusively involved in energy management often emphasize studying and modifying the entire energy use pattern of the client in addition to simple operations and maintenance changes. 3,4,5

#### Energy Equipment Financing

Equipment financing businesses have been a small but steadily growing service industry. They were helped by several elements of the Economic

Recovery Tax Act of 1981 which simplified and speeded up depreciation rates. As a result of tax credits provided in the Energy Tax Act of 1978 and the Crude Oil Windfall Profits Tax Act of 1980, many different types of energy property are eligible for tax credits. A handful of businesses now specialize in financing acquisition of energy property by a shared savings arrangement. Some charge a flat fee, which is guaranteed to be less than savings -- often called guaranteed positive cash flow. Others use more complicated arrangements which involve investors, lenders, and clients sharing savings on a given, often variable, schedule.

Equipment financing services are only as good as: (a) the equipment itself, (b) the matchup between the equipment and the building, and (c) the maintenance and operation of the equipment after installation.

Too frequently, the equipment finance organization has a vested interest (perhaps as the manufacturer) in a specific piece of equipment. Unless the client is certain that this is the best equipment for his needs, equipment financing alone will be a risk. Also, if the maintenance and operation of new equipment are left to existing personnel, potential savings may not be realized; current staff may lack the capability or the motivation to keep the new system running right.

## Comprehensive Energy Services

Existing in Europe and now developing in the United States is an array of companies offering audit, financing and maintenance services as a package. These companies have been called total energy management companies, energy services companies, energy conservation companies and integrated retrofit delivery systems. In concept, they are contractors who will audit a client's building, design and install any modifications necessary, operate and maintain all energy use systems, and guarantee to do so

for some figure less than current energy use costs. They have the advantage, in their purest form, of providing a client with an expertly designed program of equipment acquisition and ongoing services. A comprehensive energy services company will focus on engineering, service and management improvements to a client's energy use systems and patterns.

## Analysis of Alternatives

The primary question on which to focus our consideration is: "What does DoD need?"

The Services have the capability of doing or contracting for good quality energy audits for standard commercial buildings or industrial facilities. It would be more difficult for them to develop and retain a pool of energy engineers since those skills require considerable experience to develop and are well paid for in civilian life.

DoD certainly needs much new and more efficient energy use equipment, although it would difficult to quantify how much and to specify what kind except on an installation-specific basis. DoD also needs additional operation and maintenance help, especially if new equipment is involved. New equipment with sophisticated control technology or high efficiency boiler/burners requires arrangements for maintenance services. Also, since no equipment is either infallible or foolproof, it makes sense to arrange for its proper operation and maintenance by people with an interest (via the shared savings contract) in keeping it in top form.

However, based on the difficulties we have encountered in determining energy use and savings to date, the concerns expressed by senior personnel about DoD energy consumption growth, and the multitude of different energy using facilities and activities, it would appear that DoD does not need audits, equipment, or services so much as improved energy management. This

improved energy management will require energy auditing, may involve getting and installing new equipment, and certainly should increase energy efficiency maintenance and equipment services. However, the basic emphasis needs to be on a total energy management or energy engineering package, including review and modification of energy use patterns, education and training of service and civilian personnel, and the other elements mentioned.

A shared savings contract with a comprehensive energy services company can be constructed to provide the necessary and proper mix of equipment changes, maintenance services, and management interventions. Since the energy use reductions will be guaranteed by the contractor, this assures better compliance with DoD energy conservation goals. Because the contract will require well established and accurately monitored energy use data, this is a means of improving management information quality. Since this contract will produce energy cost savings, the benefits will come at no net cost to DoD. Finally, if avoided costs are considered as a new pool of otherwise unavailable dollars, a new source of money for other expenses will be generated.

To answer the question originally posed: "What does DoD need?":

DoD needs better tools for energy management. The comprehensive energy services company, which works on a shared savings basis, is one way to obtain that improved management at no cost, with a guaranteed reduction in energy consumption.

#### ADVANTAGES OF SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTING

Several unique advantages to shared savings arrangements are generally valuable to any customer, and some are specifically advantageous to DoD. The overall advantage is the reduction in energy consumption and the improvement of energy management at no cost. Specific advantages of shared savings contracting are itemized below.

## Capital Improvement

Almost every facility can benefit from improvement to and/or replacement of existing energy use equipment. Energy conservation programs that rely on operating and maintenance changes alone are limited in the savings to be realized. Besides, most analysts reasonably assume that the majority of the energy conservation attained to date in the United States -- including government energy conservation programs -- are due to operating changes (such as thermostat setbacks) already accomplished. In other words, the easy fixes (the no-cost/low-cost measures) have largely been done, though continued emphasis is needed to maintain these savings. The next increment of energy conservation will prove more difficult; it will require more expertise or skill, will require new equipment or retrofits, and will be more expensive. The Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) alone has funded over \$1 billion (from 1976 to 1984) for energy conservation investments.

A shared savings contract with a comprehensive energy services company is attractive because it includes equipment acquisition and improvements in addition to management, operations and maintenance assistance.

# No Capital Expenditure

Since the contractor warrants that the cost of equipment and services will be repaid out of savings realized, no capital expenditure is required. The contractor may be able to finance the acquisition of equipment at an annual cost that is less than the savings. Or, the additional savings generated by service and maintenance personnel may create a savings pool, in excess of payroll costs, to be applied to equipment acquisition costs. Furthermore, favorable tax treatment may reduce the cost of financing to below the value of energy savings.

The main advantage is that the client gets a capital improvement with no capital expenditure.

## Maintenance Contract

The contractor should be required to provide operating and maintenance services, at the very least for any new equipment and preferably for all energy use systems.

The provision of maintenance under a guaranteed savings or shared savings arrangement means that maintenance work, which previously took personnel time, or contract payments, or was ignored, is now done by the energy services contractor at no cost. This frees personnel for other maintenance work, frees dollars for other maintenance or repair projects, and assures quality of work because the contractor has a financial stake in successful savings. Care is needed to assure the contractor does not neglect long-term maintenance requirements.

## All Paid Out of Savings

The equipment and maintenance costs are to be paid out of savings realized by the installation of equipment and the provision of operating and maintenance services. There is no new or net cost. The contractor could be required to post guarantee instruments in the form of surety bonds, insurance policies, and manufacturer or installer warranties to protect the client from any cost.

This is the essential new element of these businesses. They make money by saving money, provide the client with services and capital improvements, and assure themselves of business and profit by capturing the savings potential (shown in Figure 1-3).

#### Guaranteed Savings

In some fashion the client is guaranteed to realize savings. Typical methods include: straight (50-50) share of savings; unbalanced share (70-30, etc.); shifting shares (90-10 in year 1, 10-90 in year x); guaranteed savings in actual energy used; fixed fee guaranteed to be less than savings.

Many, if not most, contracts contain factors for adjusting for variations in weather and energy prices. It is important to note the different between guarantees of dollar savings versus guarantees of energy savings. The differences lies in whether the contractor is willing to absorb the risks of uncertain future weather and market conditions. Regardless of what guarantees the contractor offers, he should be specifically required to assure the client that if he (the contractor) is unable to fulfill the contract, he or his insurance carrier will restore the premises to their previous operating condition at no cost. A cap or limit on total contractor fee may be appropriate for large scale projects.

The contractor may offer only little financial benefit but great energy savings or vice versa. It may be that in early years most of the financial benefits flow to the contractor, but that at some particular time the contractor turns all savings over to the client. In any case, the contractor should be required to guarantee that the client will at some time realize savings in dollars, immediately realize savings in energy, and never face increases in costs except for increases in energy use due to preselected causes, e.g., fuel price increases. It should be noted that no such legally meaningful guarantees are possible from employees.

## Shifts Risk to Contractor

The energy management assistance available from an energy services company provides a client with expertise in the complex and rapidly growing field of energy technology. During the last ten years, as energy has increased in price 5 and 6 fold, the number of new techniques and technologies to save energy has increased even more.

A comprehensive energy services company taking an engineering management approach to energy conservation will make the best matchup of equipment changes, services and management interventions for a client. Successful companies are able to acquire the most up-to-date product information and the most skilled personnel in a way that many clients cannot.

The energy services company is hired for its expertise; it is responsible for designing, installing, operating and maintaining facilities in a more energy efficient manner. The responsibility for error, performance deficit, or dysfunction is placed by contract on the contractor. The contract should also specify, as discussed above, the risk protection coverage provided the client by the contractor. Specifically, the contractor should be responsible for the savings guaranteed, the installation and performance of the equipment, the level of thermal comfort, continuation of building operations related to energy, contingent liabilities and repairs in case of dysfunction, and the performance of any subcontracted activities.

## Provides Immediate Savings

Shared savings contracts provide, at the very least, energy savings in the first year and usually dollar savings or avoided costs. This means not only that clients have no net costs, as mentioned above, but also that there is an immediate reduction in energy use in the first year of the contract.

Financing an energy project from internal funds incurs a current expense typically well in excess of first year savings. Thus, it takes several years to return or pay back the investment. 17,18 Although DoD does have an amount of money from the Energy Conservation Investment Program, shared savings energy services contracting provides another method by which energy conservation projects can be funded without using ECIP money. Since an energy services contract can be implemented more quickly than an ECIP project can be developed and funded, immediate savings are realized that might otherwise be lost.

## Purchases Incentivized Management

By contracting with a private business for the provision of energy efficient thermal comfort, a government agency is able to get the benefit of incentives that do not exist in the public sector. Obviously profit is a strong motivator; so is job secruity. As one executive of an energy service company said, "If our people produce the savings we guaranteed, they get to keep their jobs."

## Frees Dollars for Other Use

If we can get a private company or individuals to invest money in public facilities or services which meet publicly set standards of performance and cost, then scarce public dollars which otherwise would have been to spent there can be spent elsewhere. "Elsewhere" can be other necessary repairs and maintenance that are not energy related, or it can be other energy projects whose longer term payback is not attractive to private investors.

## DISADVANTAGES OF SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTING

Advantages do not come without costs and risks. While the advantages can be fairly easily identified, not all the drawbacks and problems can be determined and described in advance. The reason is essentially that this kind of contracting is both new and different.

#### It Is Different

RECORDER DOWNSTRY DESIGNATION AND

For the most part, service acquisition contracts operate on an established fee basis, whereas the type of arrangements we are talking about typically does not have a set fee. The fee paid the contractor may vary during the life of the contract, and the fee schedule of any two contractors proposing the same services are likely to differ.

Since this is a new type of contracting for everyone, not just for DoD, there is little guidance available. Indeed, LMI's research is one of

four efforts, recently begun, to look at shared savings contracts by 20 Blue Cross of America/Blue Shield of America for DOE, 21 the Technical Development Corporation for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, 22 Lane and Edson PC also for DOE, the National Community Energy Management Center 23 in conjunction with the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. These other efforts will result in documents including generic materials for their particular focus -- hospitals, multi-family dwellings, municipal governments -- in the next three months to a year.

In addition to a different payment process and a new type of contract (i.e., for performance and thermal comfort rather than to design and build), developing and executing such contracts means doing something different. It means disrupting business-as-usual.

## The Money Source Is Avoided Costs

Avoided costs are not true revenues. They are not new dollars received from an outside source; they are dollars already within the budget for another purpose -- in this case, paying energy bills.

Using saved energy dollars to pay for improved energy management has a great deal of logical appeal, but it requires some changes in accounting. First, there must be a means of identifying real projected energy costs. Next, these dollars must be set aside as a pool of money from which the energy service company's bills would be paid. In other words, the amount of money which would otherwise have been spent in each year the contract is in force must be counted as an avoided cost.

This novel accounting process may take time to develop and may be difficult to integrate with existing financial control practices. For example, the regulations and procedures governing cost comparisons do not apply to shared savings contracts since there are no new costs. 24

## Some Savings Are Given Up

The contractor makes his money out of the savings the client could realize if he could do it himself. These companies appeal to organizations that have limited access to capital, an inability to use certain tax benefits, a lack of requisite skills or personnel, an interest in minimizing their own risks, and a desire to save energy.

The client agrees to give up all the savings he could realize by doing it himself in return for avoiding the capital cost or the risk. When the client is DoD, we must ask whether DoD should allow businesses to make money out of its inefficiency in order for it to avoid capital investment and risks associated with the management of its own facilities.

The policies and procedures in Circular No. A-76 affirm the federal "reliance on the private sector". But it remains to be determined wherear the savings given up by the energy-using client (in this case DoD) and tax revenues lost to the Treasury are worth the energy saved and other benefits.

Typically, the contractor will wish to get more money as energy prices rise, especially if the contractor is paying the energy bills. However, if energy prices rise precipitously (as they did twice in the 70's for oil and will certainly rise again in the 80's for gas and certain electric utilities' customers), the contractor may get a windfall.

#### Operations and Maintenance Are Contracted Out

This is apparently more of a problem for the General Services Administration than for DoD since the Department has many existing facility maintenance service contracts. However, a new contract with an energy services company must take into account both existing maintenance contracts (when they expire, whether they can be subordinated or renegotiated), and existing personnel assignments. The last item is clearly a difficult problem because of civil service procedures and protections regarding displacements. <sup>25</sup>

## Government Relies on Privately-Owned Equipment

Unlike some state and local governments, the federal government has no general prohibitions against a private corporation or concessionaire owning equipment placed on government premises and used by government personnel. Tax issues aside, DoD ought to be concerned that any equipment upon which it would rely for essential and, especially, emergency activities are certain to be functional and secure. No contract should be entered that could breach or threaten security or readiness.

## The Market Is Not Mature

Energy services companies and shared savings contracts are new and rapidly growing market entries. No one method of contracting or type of company has established pre-eminence in this field. Their novelty not only means great variety and flexibility but also insecurity. Some early contracts have fallen through disastrously, <sup>26</sup> and some pioneers are out of the business. <sup>27</sup> Not only is there danger of any given company going out of business, for lack of business, but there is also danger in too rapid growth. <sup>28</sup>

## There Are Transaction Costs

As a result of the newness and uncertainty of such contracting, developing an effective, prudent, and realistic contract between a DoD facility and a comprehensive energy services company will take time and money. These transaction costs will occur as the first Request for Proposal is written, the first contract documents prepared, the first site and contractor selected, and so on. All subsequent work can follow the mold or the guidance developed, but the pioneer effort will involve careful thought, planning and evaluation.

#### There May Be Policy or Procedural Issues

We have attempted to identify and recommend techniques to resolve all major impediments. However, it is not possible to foresee all the

potential hazards of a new course of action. We have identified the following policy concerns and procedural functions as possibly affected by the idea of shared savings energy service contracts.

Capital Acquisition. Under current law and regulations, Congress and the Office of Management and Budget are responsible, respectively, for legislative and executive oversight of capital acquisition. If energy services contracts result in the acquisition of capital stock without the review of these offices, has their authority been subverted? Allied to that is the more difficult question of whether the contract is a capital acquisition or a service contract. 29

Tax Revenues. The equipment that an energy services company would seek to install often enjoys favorable tax treatment. Indeed, some energy services companies have been set up simply to take advantage of such benefits. The United States Treasury Department may be concerned if DoD plans to give businesses the opportunity to aggregate large tax benefits. The Department of Housing & Urban Development has examined this issue vis-a-vis the use of energy services contracts in public housing. 30

<u>DoD Accounting</u>. A new accounting method or process will have to be developed to manage the "avoided cost pool" discussed previously. The accounting may also have to address the value of any capital share developed under a shared savings contract, if expenditures authorized for energy costs are really being spent to acquire an interest in a piece of equipment. 31

#### Leadership Is Required

Business as usual cannot meet the challenge of addressing these problems, making the decisions, and surmounting the hurdles discussed below. A decision to proceed and manpower to support that decision are necessary. No reasonable amount of study can answer the questions and test the advantages

posed by shared savings energy services contracting. What is needed is an exploratory, action research effort to implement and simultaneously evaluate shared savings. This will take leadership in the form of a decision and authority to proceed, and some reasonable level of staffing to do it right. FACTORS IN IMPLEMENTATION

# Reliable, Effective Contractors Exist

Studies by various organizations 32,33,34 over the last year have tried to develop an exact list of contractors who offer shared energy savings arrangements and to take some measure of their effectiveness. Drawing from these studies, from files developed by LMI and other professionals, and from a mail-in survey conducted by LMI during this project, we developed a list of potential suppliers of energy services. This list and its sources are presented and discussed in Appendix B.

While we were not able to contact and research all the companies claiming to be shared savings energy services organizations, we were able to satisfy ourselves with first hand evidence that many solid, reliable and proven energy services firms exist, and that properly structured, new organizations could be developed out of existing engineering and financial professional practices to provide competent energy services.

#### Contract Arrangements Can Vary

Different businesses offer varying energy services and payment schedules. Contracts for engineering management services are especially flexible to accommodate particular organizational and facility requirements.

It is clear, from our discussion below, that DoD must place many restrictions and requirements on energy services contractors. However, our research indicates that it will not be difficult to get the type of contract arrangements DoD procedures and prudent management dictate.

## DOE-GSA Study

There is currently a cooperative work effort between the Department of Energy and the General Services Administration with which the LMI project has also been cooperating. This combined united effort is attempting to explore the use of private services and financing contracts for federal building energy efficiency improvements. The advice and assistance from DOE has been helpful in guiding our efforts. Together with DOE, we have tried to keep our work complementary and mutually supportive. The personnel involved in the DOE-GSA work and the progress or problems they experience will be a learning resource for the Department of Defense.

## DECISIONS AND OTHER HURDLES

Several strategic or policy decisions face DoD in considering shared savings contracts.

## Saving Dollars vs. Saving Energy

The techniques and terms used by different companies vary greatly. Different pieces of equipment have different effects on energy efficiency and are treated differently for tax purposes. Two or more different energy services proposals will have different energy and dollar savings projected. Some will save more money than energy, others the opposite, and all will likely differ on the schedule on which savings occur and are shared. DoD's immediate emphasis should be on cost savings.

## Site Selection and Contract Development

The general business of energy services has developed from experience in commercial office, general institutional and industrial facilities. Selecting a site and developing a contract appropriate to the application of this technique to military facilities will require special care. Recommendations and guidance in selecting a site and contracting are discussed in Chapter 3.

## Contract Length

DoD does not face the prohibition most state and local governments do which forbids multiyear contracting. 35 However, the question of contract length is still important because it influences the payback to the contractor, which in turn influences the mix of services and equipment provided to the client. Longer contracts will support bigger ticket equipment improvements. No energy service company will install a five-year payback item under a five-year contract; this gives no margin for error or profit. Two- to three-year paybacks are the norm for five-year contracts; five-year average payback programs usually entail a contract of seven or more years.

## Baseline and Monitoring

Any shared savings arrangement will succeed (or fail) on the strength of its baseline data and monitoring techniques. Chapter 4 covers this topic in technical detail. It will be an important part of any contract development process to establish the actual base year energy consumption and to set in place the methods by which current energy consumption data and information on other building and use factors are maintained.

#### Facility/Mission Changes

This is the most serious concern facing DoD contracting on a shared savings or performance basis. Not only may building use change because of equipment changes or mission changes, but the regular reassignment of officers also changes direction and style of management.

More threatening is another type of change -- the changes in the standard operating procedures that base personnel may not be willing or able to make. The energy services contractor will be a highly motivated energy expert. The flight mechanics and repairmen may have a different set of priorities. For example, the hangar doors may be left open a lot more than

the contractor likes.<sup>36</sup> If the contractor concludes that the base personnel are offsetting increased equipment and service efficiencies with large use inefficiencies, he will seek a change order on the contract. The potential for such changes, if not controlled, seriously undermines the value of these contracts.

## DoD Procedural Changes

Developing and administering a shared savings contract can certainly be done within existing procedures. However, existing procedures may have to be modified and melded somewhat. It will require a unique accomplishment to fit an incentive payment system onto a facilities maintenance contract to be let strictly on the basis of performance standards. Also competing proposals will have to be evaluated for costs/benefits, even though current cost comparison and life-cycle costing techniques are not directly applicable. Finally, a method will have to be developed for the accounting of the contract and its savings. Researching, documenting and authorizing these procedural changes will take time and effort.

#### Utility Contracts/Bulk Purchases

Some shared savings arrangements entail the contractor's purchasing the client's fuel and utilities. If there are existing contracts with utilities or suppliers, they will have to be renegotiated. If the utility service is part of a large regional contract, the renegotiation may be difficult.

#### Existing Assignments and Contracts

Personnel assignments are a bigger problem than contracts since the latter can always be renegotiated. A successful shared savings contract requires cooperation between building staff and contractor. Personnel changes may be out of the question. The ideal arrangement would delegate all energy use equipment as the responsibility of the contractor.

## How Much Checking? Who Pays?

DoD needs to be certain that the contractor's proposals are both appropriate and likely to be effective. When the contract is in effect, DoD needs to be sure of the amount of energy actually being saved. It needs also to be assured that the financial operations of the contract and the contractors do not cheat, disrupt, or embarrass DoD.

If impartial third parties (such as auditors and accountants) are required to handle that assurance, the cost to DoD will take the form of lower savings, as the companies factor bonding and insurance costs into their bids.

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# 3. PILOT PROJECT: IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND WORK SCHEDULE

#### INTRODUCTION

We view shared savings contracts as an energy management tool with many potential advantages to the Department of Defense. It is reasonable to expect that energy services contracting will be able to save the Department a great deal of energy and money.

Although there are costs and risks associated, we feel the benefits outweigh the costs and that the risks are manageable. However, because of the novelty of the idea and the complexity of the management environment, we recommend some preliminary testing. Since we know some candidate sites are interested in developing an energy services contract, we suggest that an action research program be undertaken to develop at least one and no more than three shared savings pilot contracts. Associated with the process of developing the pilot projects should be an allied and integrated study plan to resolve identified and emergent policy and institutional problems, to evaluate the pilot project experience, and to provide documentation and guidance for subsequent contracts, if any.

The following sections present guidelines for contracting and site selection and a proposed work schedule for a pilot project.

## CONTRACTING GUIDELINES

In testing the effectiveness of shared savings contracting as a means of improving DoD energy management, we expect to save money. However, the testing process must minimize the risk to DoD to the point of being economically fail-safe.

## Existing Procedures

To the greatest extent possible, the accounting and contract forms and procedures should be those currently in use. All the major elements necessary to develop, let, and administer this type of contract are already in existence. However, those elements will need to be assembled, fitted together and approved. A shared savings energy services contract could be constructed as a facilities maintenance contract with a target fee/target price payment schedule. Present accounting procedures in at least one of the services allow base commanders to retain a share of any cost savings they realize. Chapter 4 discusses other procedures that can be used.

# Contract Goals: Cost and Energy Savings

Cost savings and efficiencies are DoD's most pressing needs and should be given top priority in shared savings contracts. However, energy savings are also important, and should be given priority, particularly for contract arrangements that depend greatly on tax credits and depreciation. Energy savings are important for meeting DoD energy conservation goals, especially if most of the no cost/low cost conservation opportunities have been exhausted, as some suggest.

### Services and Equipment

Shared savings contracting should not be used merely as a way to finance equipment acquisition. Such acquisition would probably run afoul of many Congressional and executive powers and privileges. At the very least, the idea of off-budget financing should be addressed by interested government agencies and their counsels before the federal government begins financing any capital acquisitions this way.

Properly serviced equipment is essential to a successful energy management program. The unique value of the shared savings approach is its

potential use to purchase expert energy management help, new equipment and additional maintenance at no cost.

# Energy Services vs. Equipment Financing

Under the tax code there is a substantial difference between an energy service company and an equipment lessor. Energy services companies are, in theory, treated more favorably; however, they must qualify as a service company. More than a few companies currently calling themselves energy services companies probably would not qualify. The most common model is based upon guidance gleaned from the so-called Xerox<sup>3</sup> case. Such a model has not been approved by the IRS.<sup>4</sup> To the extent that an energy services company's viability or profitability is based on an incorrect reading of the tax codes, that company is a bad business risk.

The problem in dealing with companies which only finance a single product -- those manufacturing or selling only one piece of equipment or one type of system -- is that their solution may not fit the client's problem, no matter how hard they try to engineer it.

The contract work specification should emphasize the need for comprehensive engineering and management services. The DoD should require all companies to demonstrate that the financial stability of any third party financing does not rely on the availability of tax credits.

### Five to Seven Year Contracts

Anything shorter than five years would hold the company to very short term payback items, with a definite emphasis on services and little in the way of equipment retrofits. Longer periods than seven or, at the most, ten years would reverse the emphasis leading to major re-engineering and design modifications of facilities. A better procedure would be for the concept to be tested and validated in a short period of time. Then a longer term contract could be developed in the second generation, if any.

Under 10 USC 2306 H, the DoD has the authority to enter into a contract for operations and maintenance for up to five years. (See Chapter 4 for a full discussion.) A slightly longer term would be preferable, especially if more than one contract could be let -- say, one set for five years, another for seven. This would allow a test of the effect of contract length on savings.

The Department should reserve the right to invoke a hold-harmless guarantee and cancel the contract for nonperformance at no cost. The contractor would probably require a buyout or damages fee if the contract were canceled short of term for reasons other than nonperformance.

## Risk Management

DoD cannot avoid facing some risks in shared savings energy services contracting. Some of these can be controlled in the process of contractor selection (see <u>Evaluation Criteria</u>, below). Other risks can be ameliorated by the strategic choices discussed in the previous five sections. The possibility of risk of an insufficient number of providers or contractors is negated by the list of energy services companies in Appendix B. Use change management and financial protection strategies are discussed in the next two sections. In them we consider the general question of how to manage the risks of energy services contracting.

The contract risks involve equipment, financing, operation and maintenance, and liability. The equipment must be correctly chosen and sized, properly installed, and correctly maintained and repaired in order to perform. If it does not perform to expectation, the contractor should have the responsibility to reimburse DoD for any costs incurred due to higher energy consumption and to either correct the nonperformance or remove all equipment at no cost to the Department.

The financial arrangements by the contractor for equipment and operations must be stable, evidenced by corporate security, equipment manufacturer warranties, financing insurance, surety bonds, letters of credit, or such other measures or combinations to assure that DoD will receive the energy savings promised or an equivalent reimbursement in dollars. Each bidder's proposal should indicate how DoD shall be so indemnified and the contract should then so specify.

The operation and maintenance of installed and existing equipment should be the responsibility of the contractor. The risk of lack of expertise or motivation of his employees should be borne by the contractor under his performance guarantee. However, the motivation of base personnel to cooperate with the contractor is a separate risk which would be difficult to assign to the contractor.

The best incentive to motivate civilian and service personnel is a reward system coupled with education and training. The contractor should be responsible for the energy-related education and training. But there should also be developed some method whereby cooperating commands would be rewarded from the Defense share of energy savings. Outstanding individual or unit cooperation could be rewarded by something like the Beneficial Suggestions system; the personnel evaluation system is also a way to reward individuals. Making energy conservation achievements a formal part of base or facilities command evaluations could be highly motivating.

The energy management reports filed by the contractor should address desirable operation changes, new or emerging equipment investment opportunities, and training provided and needed for base personnel. These reports should also address the cooperation of base personnel with the energy effort.

The liability for any contractor or subcontractor activity, equipment performance or failure, and any consequences thereof must be borne

by the contractor. Potential contractors should be required to demonstrate adequate insurance coverage for these contingencies to qualify as a bidder.

# Use and Change

First, a well established baseline consumption figure must be agreed upon. Tied to that figure should be good data on personnel strength, operations and equipment inventory. Then, actual energy use as well as changes in personnel, operations and equipment must be accurately monitored. The ideal method would involve consistent data developed over two or three years on all elements. However, a proxy or simulation may be necessary (see Chapter 4). We feel that existing techniques will suffice to establish and monitor use.

The problem of use changes is more difficult. The most reasonable procedure is to agree on a definition of the current use and to require that the burden of proof for use changes be placed on the contractor. The contractor would be required to identify and measure any element of operation affecting or likely to affect energy use. This requirement as well as the requirement for monitoring energy use may be subcontracted at contractor expense to a third independent entity with the approval of DoD. An even more secure but more complex arrangement would require a third party subcontract for baseline, monitoring, and change assessment.

Use changes and change orders cannot be eliminated. An important element of the study and evaluation work of the pilot project will be to determine if the changeable nature of Defense operations precludes or limits the use of shared savings energy efficiency contracting.

#### Financial Safeguards

DoD should require full access to all accounts and records of the contractor, including but not limited to: energy use data; payments to utilities and other suppliers; sources and amounts of capital invested; return on

investment; subcontract and service arrangements; operating costs and cash flow. This accounting should be professionally certified by an independent firm or individual, and the cost included in the contractor's expenses.

There should be a "circuit-breaker" accounting mechanism that will limit the benefits to the contractor if rapid energy price runups occur, so that the contractor does not stand to reap windfall financial benefits unrelated to energy conservation.

A specific guarantee in all contract offerings should stipulate that the Department shall in no case incur any new net costs as a result of the contract. If the contractor cannot perform as promised, he should forfeit bond in the amount of savings promised and be required to return the facilities in question to their previous condition and operation at no cost to the Department.

# Evaluation Criteria

Contractors should be selected by a two-step process based on how each proposes to achieve energy conservation goals set by DeD. 11,12 The first step would evaluate all contractors on the basis of references and credentials, guarantees and insurance provided, and financial stability. The second step would compare the amount and value of the energy savings each proposes to provide.

References and credentials would include corporate experience, background of principals, information on subcontractors, and a confidential listing of former clients to be contacted for reference as to performance.

All guarantees, and any performance upon which they depend, shall be insured, and proof of such insurance provided. In addition there should be specific language indemnifying the Department for any related loss or cost either under the contract or resulting therefrom. Financial stability shall

be demonstrated by appropriate guarantees and bonds and by the contractor's equity position in the contract operations.

After a pool of eligible contractors has been selected, each should be evaluated, not on the basis of how each will save energy, but on how much energy will be saved, on what schedule, at what cost in dollars. In essence, DoD should stipulate a target amount of energy to be saved either in every year, by the end of the contract period, or at selected points. Proposals can be compared on the basis of an artificial calculation of the net present value of energy saved. Evaluations should select the proposal with the highest energy cost savings.

In a comparison of different arangements it will be important to take into account the effect of exercising buyout options and to allow for contracts of differing length. This will require the development of some hypothetical factor to account for the difference between contractor maintenance services and employee O&M.

Finally, sensitivity analyses should be performed on: (a) the impact of rapid energy price escalation on contractor revenues, to test the worth of each contractor's circuit-breaker mechanism; and (b) the "wobble" (or estimation of error) in contractor guarantees.

A single contractor must be selected for any one site. It is simply not possible to manage multiple shared savings contracts due to difficulties in allocating responsibility for changes in energy consumption.

## Study Plan

To assure that adequate data are produced for evaluation of the pilot project, it should be designed and administered to include study. Study goals should be explicitly established ahead of time and the sources and means of developing necessary information identified. An excellent method of evaluating the effectiveness of energy services contracting would be to compare the

pilot project site with a similar site undergoing an aggressive internal program of energy conservation; both should then be compared to a group of similar facilities presumed to be doing business as usual.

Because of the possibility of unforeseen institutional impediments and unresolved policy implications, the pilot project and its evaluation study should be organized around prescribed decision points at which go/no-go decisions must be made. These points and the intervening work steps are discussed later under Work Schedule.

Research and evaluation should be documented to support decision making, to record the study itself, and to provide guidance for the next generation of contracts if the study concludes positively.

A major element of the pilot study will be the provision of technical assistance to the base or bases chosen as sites. Base personnel will have little reason and few resources to go through the complexities of this new type of contract and will need assistance. Regional personnel should be involved in this technical assistance effort to assist as well as to learn. SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES

## Size of Project

The site or sites selected should be attractive to the contractor because of high energy use per square foot and average or above average utility and fuel prices. We recommend a site with a \$1 million minimum annual energy bill.

## Mission

The facilities chosen should have a steady mission for the foreseeable future -- at least through the five to seven years of the contract life. Hospital facilities at a training command are excellent examples. 13 Nonsensitive office buildings, base community and recreation centers, base exchanges, and, generally, headquarters and training facilities are also candidates. Government owned and contractor operated (GOCO) plants might also be worthwhile.

સિક્ષિત એમિલીકો સ્ટ્રીકોમિલીકો એમિલીકો એકો એકો એકો અમેરા સાંચો એકો એમિલીકો અને મોકો એકો અમેરા એકો એકો અમેરા અમે આ મામારા મામારા મામાં આવેલા મામારા મામાર

# Metering

It is most desirable that meters be in place and baseline energy consummption data be available for the previous two or three years. Once the contract is executed, meters must be in place, although baseline consumption data can be developed by proxy (discussed in Chapter 4). However it would be much preferable to have the data from metering and use the two sources -- meter data and proxy figures -- as cross checks for use changes.

# Compatible with Base

As noted above, the energy services contract must be compatible with the base plans for the period of the contract and also compatible with the existing contracts and personnel assignments. Contracts for energy-related equipment service or facilities maintenance already in force will have to be renegotiated. There must be authority and willingness to do this. Existing base personnel should be willing and able to participate in a shared savings energy services contract for a pilot project.

## Number of Sites

It would be valuable to have more than one site, more than one length of contract, more than one service as a client, and more than one type of building in the pilot project. However, because contract development and administration will be both time consuming and unique to each pilot contract, it is neither feasible nor reasonable to pursue a large number. Three is probably a reasonable upper limit to the number of sites and would allow more than enough variation in conditions.

# PILOT PROJECT WORK SCHEDULE

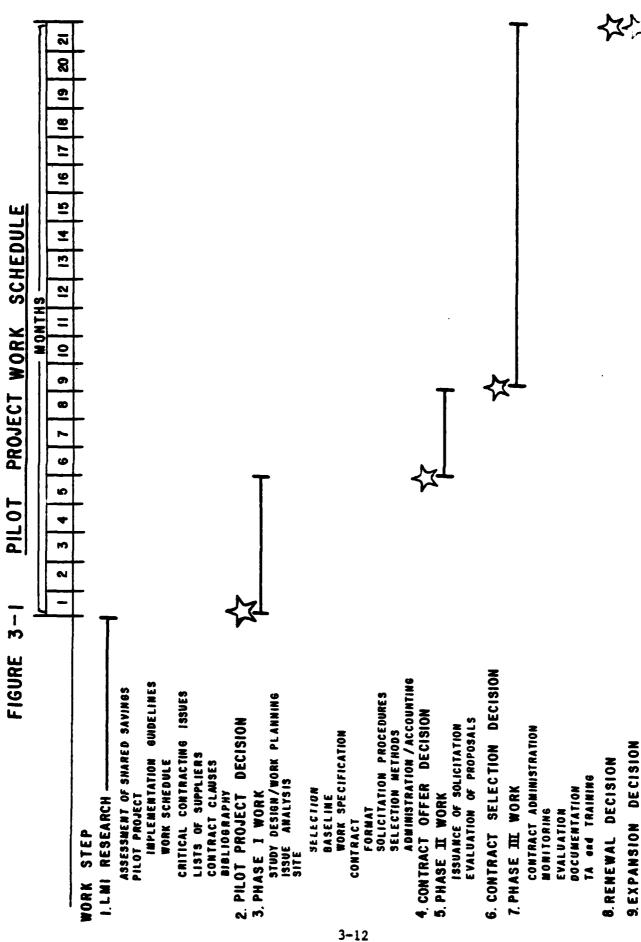
The pilot project is viewed as an action research project to test the feasibility of the use of shared savings energy services contracting by DoD. In trying to develop and execute a contract while researching and attempting to resolve known and emergent problems, the feasibility can be tested one step at a time. The process can be halted at several points prior to or after contract award. The research, development, and evaluation work is organized around these decision points.

The length of time between the decision points is a function of the work to be done and the manpower available to do it. In setting these milestones we have assumed optimum staffing and projected a 21-month period from the project's beginning to the end of the evaluation of the first contract year. The work load would require at least one and perhaps two full time persons for this trial period, depending on the number of project sites and the details of work to be done. The proposed work schedule is shown in Figure 3-1.

## Step 1. LMI Research

As a part of Task Order ML207 (MDA 0166-42) the Logistics Management Institute has researched and evaluated the applicability of shared savings energy conservation services contracting to DoD facilities. The substance of this work was presented at a briefing to DoD on September 8, 1982 by LMI staff and consultants. This report formalizes that material and provides:

- Introduction to Shared Shavings
- Assessment of Shared Savings Contracting
- Pilot Project: Implementation Guidelines and Work Schedule
- Critical Contracting Issues: Immediate and Long Term
- List of Energy Services Companies Offering Shared Savings Contracts



- List of Companies Providing Energy Accounting Systems
- List of Requisite Contract Clauses
- Bibliography

# Step 2. Pilot Project Decision

Upon receipt of this report the Department can decide whether it wishes to pursue the pilot project.

# Step 3. Phase I Work

During this five-month period, four parallel efforts are required:

(a) define the study plan and allied work effort; (b) select the site, develop baseline data and work specification; (c) establish a contract format, solicitation wording, evaluation methods, and administrative and accounting procedures; and (d) research the policy issues raised by the use of this new technique.

# Step 4. Contract Offer Decisions

At this point, the responsible Service procurement officer will have to decide if any good reason exists for not requesting proposals for shared savings energy conservation services. Only a major administrative impediment (any of which should be resolvable in time) or a serious policy reservation should prevent issuing an RFP (and continuing the study).

# Step 5. Phase II Work

In the beginning of this four-month period, the Services would issue a solicitation and provide a great deal of information and guidance to potential contractors. Once the proposals have been received, the task of the pilot study staff will be to compare and evaluate the various proposals and recommend the best.

#### Step 6. Contract Selection Decision

Presuming that there are responsive bids, that all the safeguards are in place, that analytic methods favor some contractor(s) over others, and

that administrative and accounting procedures are developed, it should be easy to decide whether or not to proceed.

# Step 7. Phase III Work

During the first year of the contract, the monitoring and evaluation work should be oriented toward determining the value of continuing or expanding such contracts and documenting how the next (if any) contracts should be handled. In addition, there will be contract administration work as with any contract -- accounting, payment, reports, etc. Finally, there will have to be some continued assistance to base, regional, or command personnel working with the new contract management.

# Step 8. Renewal Decision

At the end of one year, there should be an explicit decision made whether to renew the contract or not. If the contract has not worked, the Department should terminate it.

#### Step 9. Expansion Decision

If the pilot project has demonstrated significant and valuable energy savings and energy management improvements, DoD should decide whether to develop a standard set of procedures based on this experience for other Defense installations to use in energy efficiency improvement programs.

### CONCLUSION

This pilot study design will allow DoD to explore an innovative and promising concept -- shared savings energy conservation contracting -- at little cost and with no perceivable risk. The project can be halted at any one of several points and can be designed to have an exhaustive variety of financial safeguards.

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# 4. CRITICAL CONTRACTING ISSUES

# INTRODUCTION

Beginning with the work effort in Phase I, three critical issues must be addressed in establishing the contract format, the solicitation wording, the evaluation methods, and the necessary administrative and accounting procedures. Several of these issues will continue to be of concern throughout the entire pilot study.

We will consider them in the following order:

- Precedents and Authority for Shared Savings Contracts
- Baseline Determination and Energy Consumption Accounting
- Contractor Qualifications

#### PRECEDENTS AND AUTHORITY FOR SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTS

#### Multi-Year Contracting

In the DoD Authorization Bill (P.L. 97-869) of FY 1982, Congress gave approval for multi-year procurement of goods and services within the continental United States. The Bill permits such contracts to be financed by funds made available for each single year of the contract. The contract may have a term of more than one but not more than five program years. The renewal of the contract during the second through the fifth year may be contingent upon the appropriation of funds. Funds for potential termination charges--i.e., contractor cost recovery--must be appropriated in both the initial and subsequent years.

Although this law was written to achieve economic, lot purchase and the more efficient projection of weapon systems, contracts for operations and maintenance and energy maintenance services are also authorized contingent

upon appropriated funds. Specifically exempted from multi-year contracting authority, however, are contracts for the construction, alteration, major repair, or improvement of real property. This exemption, unfortunately, would limit shared-savings contracts to quick payback items since real property (boilers, chillers, building envelope) could not be involved in multi-year contracts. Since these real property items are long payback, expensive investments, probably no contractor would be willing or able to finance such projects without multi-year authority. This policy by Congress may eliminate one of the real benefits of shared-savings contracting -- off-budget financing of expensive ECIP projects.

Some shared savings contractors offer energy services under a contract to provide "thermal comfort." This may be considered as essentially a utilities service contract. According to Defense Acquisition Regulations (DAR), when a solicitation of utilities service suppliers (in this case, shared-savings contractors) indicates that an award to a supplier already under contract is in the best interest of the Government, those services may be obtained by a change order modification to the existing contract. Utilities service contracts may also provide for positive action to renew them annually. Therefore, utilities service contracts may continue in effect until further notice or until terminated, without positive action being required to renew its terms.

It appears, therefore, that utility services contracts are usable for the "purchase" of thermal comfort from shared-savings contractors in a multi-year contract and would not necessarily be limited to five years.

The Codification Act of 1982 further modified the ability to award multi-year procurements by allowing 30 year contracts for geothermal and refuse derived fuel generating plants. The proposed DoD Authorization Act of

1983 is expected to include 30 year contract authority for any conservation or energy contract. Obviously, this will eliminate the roadblocks against multi-year contracting authority.

# Precedents for Shared-Savings Contracts

A precedent for shared-savings contracts exists in the DAR and in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) under the Value Engineering (VE) sections. As defined in the DAR:

"Value Engineering is the formal method set forth in an appropriate contract clause by which, during the performance of a contract, the contractor may suggest methods for performing the contract more economically and share in any resulting savings or may be required to establish an organization aimed at identifying and submitting to the Government methods for performing the contract more economically."

As defined above, there are two VE programs, a voluntary program by the contractor and a mandatory program imposed upon the contractor by the Government, both of which allow the contractor to share in the savings realized. These clauses are mandatory for all architect-engineer contracts, all construction contracts over \$100,000, and in personal services contracts; all of which are implicit in energy management contracts.\*

VE allows two types of savings to be shared: acquisition and collateral savings. Acquisition savings apply to contracts for supplies or services; collateral savings apply to measurable net reductions in the Military Departments overall projected cost of operation, maintenance, logistic support, or government-furnished property, whether or not there is any change in the acquisition cost. Acquisition and collateral savings are further subdivided into instant, concurrent, or future contract savings.

<sup>\*</sup>Mandatory VE Program Requirement Clauses in A/E contracts do not include VE sharing provisions.

The typical shared savings contract savings may be considered under either of two classifications of VE savings: (a) acquisition savings for purchases of new supplies (e.g., a new, more efficient boiler nozzle replacement); and (b) the collateral savings resulting from improved O&M. The collateral savings are the savings that would be realized during an average or typical year, except that the contractor's share shall not exceed the price of the contract or \$100,000, whichever is greater. The DAR gives clear savings split ratios for each of these conditions depending upon the type of contract, as shown in Table 4-1.

TABLE 4-1. SHARING RATIOS

Type of Savings	Type of Contract	VE Incentive Clause (Voluntary Program)	VE Program Requirement Clause (Mandatory Program)
Acquisition	Fixed-Price (other than in- centive)	50/50	75/25
	Fixed-Price Incentive or Cost-Plus- Incentive Fee	65/35	80/20
	Cost-Plus-Award- Fee	75/25	85/15
	Cost Reimburse- ment	75/25	85/15
Collateral	All Types	80/20	80/20

The sharing ratios may be modified in incentive contracts to be the same incentive ratio as in the contract. The sharing period is from the date of acceptance of the first item acquired under the VE clause until the delivery date of the last affected end item, or three years after acceptance of the first item, whichever is later. In a shared-savings contract, the "item" provided would be "services."

In multi-year contracts, the initial fiscal year VE savings are instant contract savings and all subsequent year savings are treated as future contract savings. The sharing period is the entire life of the multi-year contract or three years, whichever is longer.

Several conditions and tests must be met for proper documentation and classification of the contractor's savings. In summary, it appears (without a detailed ruling by counsel) that a fixed price shared-savings contract for \$1 (or some minimal value) could be awarded and yearly VE submittals be made (with monthly prepayments) to provide the contractor's 50% split of the avoided utility costs. Otherwise, a straight incentive contract may be written to incorporate the split ratio directly.

Finally, as previously mentioned in the multi-year contracting section, certain types of utilities service contracts for purchase of "thermal comfort" may be utilized to award shared-savings contracts, usually in the form of open-ended contracts.

## OMB Circular A-76

The complexities of OMB Circular A-76 will not be discussed here other than to indicate that the same cost comparison analysis must be performed for shared savings contract awards as for other Commercial Activities.

### Real Property Acquisition by Shared Savings Contracting

One of the key policy issues that must be resolved is whether shared savings contracts will usurp the "overseer" power of Congress for military construction and real property acquisition. Presently each ECIP project must be individually approved by Congress. However, a shared-savings contractor will wish to install real property equipment and, in fact, will base his bid on the assumption that he can install it. If installation is contingent upon a lengthy Congressional approval or if lengthy life cycle cost calculations

must be made to justify projects, many shared-savings contractors will prefer not to bid for government work.

DoD counsel should request an official ruling from OMB, Congressional, and GSA counsel on the status of capital equipment acquisition with shared savings contracts.

### Tax Revenue Losses

There have been many cash-flow analyses presented in the literature indicating that because of tax credits and depreciation the discounted net present value of savings to a non-profit institution is greater with shared savings contracts than with in-house financing or loan financing. This is particularly true for projects having longer than about 2-year simple undiscounted paybacks. 5,6,7 What has not been thoroughly considered is the situation in which the non-profit institution is the federal government. In this case, the contract may result in tax benefits (tax credits and depreciation) for the profit making company, a set of limited partners, or the equipment lessor, resulting in a loss of tax revenues to the client, the federal government. Many of these credits are expiring shortly, and the impact of lost tax revenue will likely be minimal. In addition, our research indicates that tax credits are not a major factor in most shared savings contracts. However, it will be important that the work in Phase I of the Pilot Study insure that the pilot projects not result in a net tax loss to the Treasury. Beyond that, the decision to extend or expand the use of shared savings contracts should be informed by work in Phase III to address the long-term effect of such contracts on Treasury revenues.

# BASELINE DETERMINATION AND ENERGY ACCOUNTING METHODS

There are two measurement tasks at issue: determining the baseline of energy consumption (the "before"); and keeping an accurate track of the actual energy avoidance as result of the contract (the "after").

The determination of the base year consumption level and the method of computing the energy savings attributable to the efforts of a contractor are a most crucial part of the shared-savings contract negotiation. Proper accounting for variations in consumption caused by changes in degree-days, square footage used, occupancy schedules, solar gain, wind, and other factors is important to the success of a shared savings contract.

The baseline determination, although obviously linked to energy accounting methods, is generally easier. A shared savings contractor will usually offer his clients several methods of determining the baseline, ranging from a simple average of fuel consumption over time (which works well for "stable" buildings where the accounting variables mentioned above are presumed to be constant over time) to sophisticated multiple linear regression analyses, and including so-called "dual baseline" methods. In this section we discuss the two methods presently available for baseline determination and energy accounting, namely, metering and regression analysis.

#### Metering

At most DoD installations there are few sub-master metered buildings, and there are no current plans to provide this level of individual building metering. One obvious solution to this problem is to have the shared savings energy management company install individual meters on buildings included in the contract specifications. However, before the project contract can be bid and awarded, some historical consumption data must be available for a baseline determination for the prospective building(s).

The DoD should begin to determine a number of "contractable sectors" at its major installations. For example, several buildings on isolated utility distribution systems could be measured aggregately by one or more meters for each energy source. Since consumption data for one or two years

are desirable for a good baseline, these buildings could not be sites for a pilot project, but could take part in subsequent contracts.

DoD has always had an energy management problem in the lack of individual building metering. This has precluded, for example, breaking out energy consumption by building category or building type. In particular, differentiation between "process" and "thermal comfort" energy consumption is not possible at the installation or building level. Additionally, even when utility bills or meter readings are available, they are often not available in a timely fashion. There are times when the consumption in one period is not reported until the next period, causing skewed monthly data.

Within DoD, sub-master individual metering has been or is available only in a few instances:

- (1) 19,279 meters were installed and monitored in a feasibility test of 10,316 family housing units at ten U.S. military installations, in response to Public Law 95-82 (August 1977). Meters in the test included those which measured electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, and steam consumption. The Report to Congress on the test, dated 1 March 1980, included the following summary:
  - "While the program of metering with norm and penalties will doubtlessly produce energy savings, they will be rather small and the direct cost of achieving those savings would be very high. Additionally, accompanying adverse personnel reaction would make that cost even higher,.... On the other hand, other programs based on education and facility improvements can guarantee a greater potential energy savings with no negative personnel reaction or adverse morale impact. Based on this study these alternatives appear to offer very attractive means of conserving energy within DoD family housing."

Congress has rejected the DoD report conclusion but has taken no further action. Proponents of metering have

criticized faults of the methods used in the test and argued that these faults compromise the test's validity. Those who have argued against metering consider their point of view vindicated by the report. As a result, many concerned managers still do not know if metering is cost effective in general, or under what circumstances it might be. Consequently, no further metering of family housing units has been proposed, except for installation of meters in new single family units and meter drops in new multifamily housing.

- (2) For commercial and industrial type buildings within DoD, much of the same confusion has occurred as in family housing. Since there is no incentive at the building operator level (i.e., energy cost avoidances are not returned to the conserving organization), there has been no push to meter these buildings either.
- (3) In the case of tenant commands on a host command installation where utilities are chargeable, some meters have been installed to provide billing information. Often, however, this billing is prorated by square-footage.
- (4) Various installations, on their own initiative, have installed metering projects, sometimes in conjunction with an EMCS computerized system (e.g., Langley AFB, Wright-Patterson AFB, Norfolk Navy Base, and San Diego Navy Base).

### Regression Analysis

Although metering consumption data is the ideal baseline determination method, it is not required for most shared savings contracts. Instead,

multiple linear regression analysis is frequently used to determine a baseline consumption for each month of the contract term. This baseline is calculated on selected predictor variables such as degree days, production units or occupancy schedule. Various combinations of utility data sampling and engineering estimates (e.g., BLAST space condition models) are used to provide short time-series consumption data, which are then analyzed with similar time-series data on the predictor variables to obtain a baseline formula. This formula determines the predicted monthly baseline consumption as a function of the most significant predictor variables. Once the formula has been determined and agreed to by both parties, only the predictor variables need measuring to define the baseline during the term of the contract.

To measure the contractor's performance (i.e., energy savings), meters should be installed (by the contractor) and data then compared to the regression derived baseline. If, instead, engineering estimates are used to determine the contractor's savings, the client must place a great deal of confidence in the shared savings contractor -- an arrangement that may not be satisfactory for either party.

Most shared savings contractors are not especially concerned about the method of baseline determination, accepting any reasonable baseline that the client or his consultant determines as fair. The reason for this is obvious from Figure 4-1, over a seven- to ten-year contract term, any disputed savings would not be a significant fraction of cotal savings. The regression derived baseline will automatically restate the monthly baseline for changes in the significant predictor variables. For other baselines (those derived from metering actual consumption or estimating average consumption), provisions must be made to restate the monthly baseline during the contract term for changes in such variables as building capacity, production, weather, or

conservation efforts by client. Normally, the original baseline is renegotiated if either party feels there has been a significant (e.g., over 10%) change in the baseline consumption due to any of these variables. As a minimum requirement, degree day, square footage, and production or service capacity adjustment formulas should be negotiated into the original agreement. One of the most successful baselines in current use is a regression equation of production variables (Btu/production unit) which is modified for degree days. It requires only accounting of the production units and degree days to determine the baseline for each month during the contract term. A method is available for determining baseload, space comfort load, production load, and overrun in each of these loads from master meter consumption data. 10

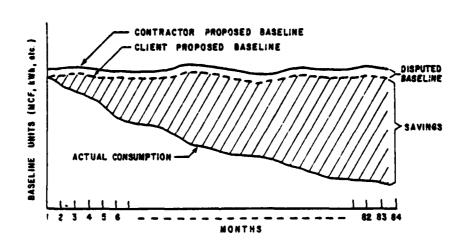


FIGURE 4-1. BASELINE SENSITIVITY OVER TERM OF CONTRACT

In general, the shared savings contractor will pass along to the client non-energy related savings such as those resulting from reduced maintenance or increased equipment life. The original negotiation should clearly spell out how such savings are to be accounted for and to whose benefit.

Also, most contracts contain a capacity utilization clause which allows the use of a different split of the savings for the contractor's fee if

the building falls below some minimum utilization level. This may be set at 10 percent below the baseline, for example, and be modified in the same way as the baseline.

Certain very expensive pieces of equipment or additional peripheral equipment (such as security or fire alarm functions in an EMCS) may be partially paid for by client but installed by the shared savings contractor for a flat fee per year. The energy savings, if any, due to this equipment must be estimated or metered and adjusted out of the baseline and actual consumption data.

Finally, when a contract is negotiated, various projections for fuel price escalation are usually delineated in the contract, and the current utility rate schedule is specified. If a windfall might occur to the contractor due to an unexpected rise in fuel price, the contract could include a circuit breaker clause. That precludes the contractor from including in his billing that portion of dollar savings due to prices in excess of 10 percent of the previously negotiated projected fuel price escalation.

The development of an acceptable and prudent method or combination of methods for energy accounting is the critical technical task in Phase I. Shared savings contracts are potential "change order" contracts. Without adequate energy accounting, DoD contract administrators may be overwhelmed with claims, both legitimate and otherwise.

#### CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

All shared savings contractors do not offer the same high level of qualified energy engineers and technicians. The most recent example of this is the poor quality of engineering services associated with Technical Assistance (TA) applications filed by institutions with the DOE Institutional Conservation Program (ICP). A real problem was found with service quality in the ICP.

This problem occurred with consulting engineering firms as well as with engineers associated with nonconsulting firms or operating independently. 12

Within DoD, A&E consulting firms characteristically perform most design work for new construction. There are many indications that these firms are not providing state-of-the-art energy measures in their designs. Many of the energy management services companies are much better at implementing energy conservation measures. These energy service companies usually have qualified energy engineers on staff able to perform the necessary technical analysis of retrofits. It should be remembered that in the ICP/TA audits, the engineer usually did not implement the recommendations, but only provided them. In energy service companies, the engineer implements his own recommendations and, since his income is derived from savings not consulting fees, his recommendations are likely to be more realistic and thorough.

If shared savings is implemented within DoD, several problems may arise, that may not show up evident in a pilot project. In a full-scale implementation, the demand for shared savings contractors by DoD may greatly exceed the small number of qualified contractors with "track records" presently in the business. Also, DoD may be required to some extent, in its procurement process, to use or favor small business contractors, many of whom may lack the professional skills and financial stability needed. Since these contracts may extend over 5-10 years, DoD will be forced to live with "procurement errors" for some time.

Although problems specific to DoD seem large, the private sector has successfully surmounted most of these same problems already. Use of a two-step procurement process, with award based on contractor qualification, is integral to much of the present success in the private sector. Private sector administrators have the luxury of not having to choose the low bid; they can

eliminate contractors that are not qualified. Rigid DoD procurement regulations often preclude this capability. However, the two-step procurement we have discussed in this report appears to be the only reasonable way to procure these services (it is similar to the competitive negotiation for A&E contracts). The use of this process appears to be compatible with the type of contracting, but we must emphasize that contractor qualification is crucial.

The solution is uniform "pre-negotiation" qualification standards for energy engineers and technicians. There is already in existence a successful Certified Energy Manager (CEM) program for energy engineers, sponsored by a professional society, the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE). The program is very successful (many DoD engineers have been certified) and is accepted by the industry as certifying the "minimum qualifications" for an energy engineer. DoD should require that all energy engineering design retrofit or technical analysis work be provided by a CEM. This will include all work performed by engineers for the shared savings contractor.

AEE has been contacted and has offered to provide DoD-specific certification (for example, regular CEM plus a test on DoD EMCS specifications, life cycle costing methods, and change order justification) for energy managers. We feel that DoD should avail itself of this opportunity to assure that all potential contractors are at least minimally qualified.

It is unfortunate that there is no certification program for energy technicians, most of whom are electrical or HVAC contractors installing the energy equipment and retrofits. A minimum level of technician quality is vitally important for installation and maintenance of equipment that will eventually become government property. Recently, it was reported that an EMCS certification program was being implemented. AEE is willing to work with a contractors' association or society to help set up a Certified Energy Technician

(CET) program. DoD should encourage these groups to set up certification programs and include DoD-specific certification tests in the program. If and when such a program is established, a shared savings contractor should be required to employ CEM's and CET's in order to be a "qualified Government contractor."

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#### APPENDIX A

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## APPENDIX B

## LIST OF ENERGY SERVICE SUPPLIERS

Table B-1 on the following pages is a comprehensive list of firms in the U.S. currently providing energy services. Those identified with an asterisk (\*) responded to advertisements placed by LMI in September 1982 editions of the <a href="Energy User News">Energy User News</a> soliciting names of firms interested in shared savings contracting with the DoD.

#### TABLE B-1. ENERGY SERVICE SUPPLIERS

AABS Energy Management Co. (AABS Electric Co.) 4338 W. Montrose Avenue Chicago, IL 60641

ACR Energy Concepts Inc. 1704-A Manor Road Austin, TX 78722

Acurex Corporation Energy & Environmental Division 485 Clyde Avenue Mountain View, CA 94042

Henry Adams, Inc. 401 Washington Avenue P.O. Box 10657 Baltimore, MD 21204

Adams Industrial Sales Inc. 833 Ashmore Drive Charlotte, NC 28212

\*ADT One World Trade Center 92nd Floor New York, NY 10048

Advanced Electronic Controls of Virginia P O. Box 11824 7 Pinehaven Drive Lynchburg, VA 24506

Advanced Energy Applications Inc. 1386 Holt Avenue Los Altos, CA 94022

Advanced Coergy Concepts Division Mangold Ladustrial Systems Co. 5032 N Hollywood Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53217

Advanced Energy Concepts International (Energy Engineering) 50 Berdonia Road Berdonia, NY 10954

Advanced Roof-Energy Systems Inc. Champion Tower 400 E. Anderson Lane, Suite 460 Austin, TX 75752

Aegis Energy Systems, Inc. 607 Airport Blvd. Doylestown, PA 18901

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\*Responded to advertisement in the Energy User News soliciting energy service companies interested in shared savings contracting with DoD.

#### APPENDIX C

# CONTRACT CLAUSE REQUIREMENTS 1,2

- A. Type of Facility
- B. Location of Facility
- C. Client/Contractor split ratio of savings. Information provided in bid by contractor.
- D. Terms of Payment. Clause should almost always require prompt payment to contractor with stiff penalties for delayed payment.
- E. Effective Date of Contract. The date for beginning computation of contractor's fee from avoided costs, usually sometime after contract is signed and equipment installed.
- F. Designation of Meterable Portions of Facility. This clause is necessary if, for example, the contractor installs insulation or low-cost retrofits prior to a major installation project and desires initial payment for that portion only. After the major installation, the overall savings would then be billable. (The purpose of this is to protect the contractor by limiting his risk to only those items he has installed.) Other meterable portions might include space conditioning versus productivity related savings.
- G. Base Year Determination Clause must provide complete determination of the base year formula and provisions for restatement of the base year formula for predictor variables, as discussed in Chapter 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Brown, D. L., personal communication, Time Energy, Inc., September 1982.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Klepper, M., et al., "Innovative Financing for Energy Efficiency Improvements," Phase I Report, Lane and Edson, Washington, DC, April 1982.

- H. Responsibility for Maintenance. This is a critical issue since DoD is expecting to obtain energy equipment maintenance from the shared savings contractor in addition to reduced energy consumption. In the private sector, the client's personnel usually do not provide adequate energy equipment maintenance even after training by the contractor. Contractors usually have sophisticated monitoring capability with installed EMCS equipment and can document equipment operating hours and any degraded level of maintenance by maintenance personnel. The "cleanest" contract for DoD would be to have the shared savings contractor perform all maintenance on energy consuming equipment and building envelope as part of his originally negotiated contract. If this is not the case, a clause is usually included stating that if, over several months, the level of preventive maintenance on equipment or facilities is not performed adequately by the client (e.g., less than 90 percent of required level), the contractor has the right to require the client to pay the contractor or other contractors to perform the required maintenance.
- I. Personnel authorized to negotiate and sign contract.

- J. Approval of both parties prior to selling or disposing of the building or facility. This clause will include penalties paid to the contractor if a facility is shut down or sold in the first year(s) of the contract, especially if high investment costs have been incurred.
- K. Contract Termination. This clause will set forth the conditions for termination by either party and will include liquidated damages as required. Buy-out conditions and payments are specified here.
- L. Right of Access. This clause defines right of access by contractor to equipment installed by contractor or incorporated into the contract work specifications. It also stipulates access to copies of the utility bills.

- M. Loss and Damage. This clause sets forth rights and responsibilities in the event of loss or damage to equipment, includes statement of insurance coverage including beneficiaries, and specifies persons authorized to remove equipment.
- N. Remedies for Breech of Contract by Either Party. This clause should include a requirement for binding arbitration.
- O. Savings Formula. This clause spells out how the savings will be determined, such as: current month base year consumption times current billing rate structure minus current monthly bill equals savings.
- P. Stipulations on various acceptable sources of capital financing. This clause will set out any Government-specific requirements that affect sources of capital available to the contractor through bank financing, limited partnerships, and brokerages.
- Q. Guaranteed Savings. This clause will address guarantees in energy (Btu) and utility dollar savings to be made part of the negotiated contract. This is important to DoD not only because of mandated requirements to reduce consumption (Btu/SF) 20 percent but also because this will allow objective determination of grounds for termination for nonperformance.
- R. Change Orders. This clause states very clearly what constitutes a change order (other than that is previously specified under changes to predictor variables in the baseline and energy accounting section) and spells out procedures for negotiating these costs. A description of how the DoD will finance such authorized change orders out of the DoD's share of the savings will also be specified. This is necessary in the original contract to reduce the risk to the contractor.

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse soils if necessary and identity by block number)

Study examines advantages and disadvantages of shared savings contracting for reducing defense facilities energy costs. The potential savings based on private sector experience is substantial; risks are small. Report presents guidelines for conducting pilot projects, a list of energy service suppliers, and contract clause requirements.

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